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CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE STUDIES REQUESTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS RESOLUTION 44/172A ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Note by the Executive Director

Corrigendum *

1. Executive summary, paragraph 13, line 3

   For 383 per cent read 357 per cent

2. Executive summary, paragraph 17

   (a) Line 9: for alternate read alternative

   (b) Line 10: for sources; read sources.

   (c) Line 11: delete - Renewable energy.

3. Executive summary, paragraph 18 (a)

   For the existing text of paragraph 18 (a), substitute

   (a) To assist developing countries to develop national capabilities in science and technology and the dissemination of technologies needed for desertification control and the development of land resources in drylands and renewable energy resources;

4. Executive summary, paragraph 18 (c)

   (a) The last line of paragraph 18 (c) should read and technology;

   (b) At the end of paragraph 18 (c), a new paragraph should be inserted reading

   (d) Conservation of nature, including the establishment of biosphere reserves.

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* All references in the present corrigendum are to the report of the Secretary-General attached to the note by the Executive Director.

5. Executive summary, paragraphs 20-23

For the existing text of paragraphs 20-23, substitute

20. The international debt strategy includes several policy initiatives currently under discussion, which should be encouraged. Many OECD countries, the principal sources of bilateral assistance, have announced their willingness to treat debt reduction or cancellation more sympathetically if it is linked to natural resources conservation. In realist terms, however, the linking of debt cancellation with the financing of programmes to redress desertification is fraught with a variety of difficulties. First, many of the desertification-prone countries are in such a severe state of economic and financial impoverishment that any relief from debt is normally earmarked for actions that are considered of higher priority. The funds released from debt cancellation should lead to the provision of greater resources for the protection of the environment, rehabilitation of land productivity, improvement of rangelands, extension of irrigation facilities, etc., all of which are very important development actions. Secondly, desertification-prone countries are often not willing to allocate funds that become available to them for development purposes that include these activities. Finally, the central issue in the financial management of these countries is one of evaluating of emerging needs. In the calculus of needs and benefits (often essentially short-term), projects and programmes would have to justify themselves as major and urgent concerns in order to be placed high on the list of priorities.

Chapter 6

21. Non-governmental organizations in developing countries have played a special role, not so much in the financing of projects and programmes, but several other equally important roles. First, many non-governmental organizations at the developing country level constitute effective pressure groups in favour of environmental action. Secondly, through community groups at the local level, they act in favour of natural resources conservation, including measures that have a direct bearing on land degradation and desertification. Thirdly, these non-governmental organizations, because of their knowledge of local conditions and specific ecosystems, could make a substantive contribution in the implementation of anti-desertification activities. Finally, the total package of resources needed for anti-desertification programme must include a number of components apart from funds. These are human resources, time given to protection of the environment, operational activities in the field, etc. It is this last component in which non-governmental organizations are most effective.

22. Foundations have played an important role in supporting activities of organizations that contribute to anti-desertification technologies, such as contributing to ICRISAT and funding research by the CGIAR. Such involvement by foundations in training and research could be strengthened and coordinated to ensure more effective contributions to anti-desertification measures.

23. Individuals could participate, as has been the case with UNICEF activities, through lending their personal prestige, inlfuence and financial resources to anti-desertification efforts, as well as such mechanisms as the Earth Saving Bonds (which would be more open to the general public than other financing possibilities).

6. Chapter 1, paragraph 57, line 5

For FAO the read FAO's

7. Chapter 1, paragraph 59, line 5

After IAWGD insert has shown

8. Chapter 1, paragraph 77, lines 2 and 3

For money in addition to improved read money; what is needed in addition is to improve the

9. Chapter 2, table 6, second column ("Medium total cost of 20-year rehabilitation programme")

(a) Third entry: for (+ 393%) read (+ 357%)

(b) Last entry: for (+ 179) read (+ 177%)

10. Chapter 2, paragraph 20, line 3

For 383 read 357